



State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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December 14, 2006

Dear Coastal Dungeness Crab Fisher:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with complete details relative to the opening of the coastal Dungeness crab fishery for the 2006-2007 season. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has finalized management agreements with the Makah Tribe, the Quileute Tribe, and the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN). These plans contain specific management measures designed to meet the state's harvest sharing obligations with the coastal treaty Indian tribes. The management measures include area closures and different starting dates consistent with our state-tribal agreements. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the management measures described below before you begin your fishing operations.

**OPENING DATES AND FAIR START PROVISIONS:**

**Klipsan Beach to Destruction Island:**

Except within the SMA described below, the state commercial fishery will open from Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to Destruction Island (47°40.50) beginning with a 64-hour gear pre-set period starting at **8:00 AM, January 5, 2007**. Vessel hold inspections will be conducted on January 7, 2007, at noon. Fishers can begin fishing at 12:01 a.m. on January 8, 2007.

**Destruction Island to U.S.-Canadian Border:**

The state commercial fishery will open from Destruction Island to the U.S. Canadian border at **12:01 AM, January 16, 2007**. There will **not** be a 64-hour pre-set period before the opening. Vessel hold inspections will be conducted on January 7, 2007, at noon.

**Klipsan Beach to WA/OR Border including Willapa Bay:**

The coastal Dungeness crab fishery opened to state fishers from Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to the WA/OR border (46°15.00), including Willapa Bay, on **December 1, 2006**.

- Fishers participating in the fishery south of Klipsan Beach or in Willapa Bay are subject to reduced pot limits. Fishers with permanent pot limits of 500 and 300 will be allowed to use 400 or 250 pots, respectively. Unused buoy tags must be on board vessels engaged in fishing in the area through January 4, 2007. **The temporary pot limits will be removed at 8:00 AM, January 5, 2007.**
- Vessels that fish in the area between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach and/or in Willapa Bay before the ocean area north of Klipsan Beach opens are subject to the fair start provisions described below.
- The barging period for this area is extended through December 22, 2006.

**Fair Start Provisions:**

- **Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to Oysterville (46°33.00):** Vessels that fish between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens (January 5, 2007) will be allowed to fish in the area between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville beginning at 8:00 AM, January 15, 2007.
- **Oysterville (46°33.00) to U.S. Canadian Border:** Vessels that participate in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens (January 5, 2007) may not fish in the area between Oysterville and the U.S. Canadian border until 8:00 AM, February 4, 2007.

**SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS:**

**Quinault:**

The Quinault **primary SMA** will be closed to state fishers beginning at 12:01 AM January 5, 2007. The **primary SMA** is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers through February 28, 2007; however, is subject to change based on actual state and tribal catches observed inseason.

The Quinault **primary SMA** is described as the coastal waters shoreward of a line approximating the 25-fathom depth curve between Raft River (47°28.00) and Copalis River (47°08.00) according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: 47°28.00N. – 124° 20.70
- Northwest Corner: 47°28.00N. – 124°33.00
- Southwest Corner: 47°08.00N. – 124°23.50
- Southeast Corner: 47°08.00N. – 124° 11.20

There will be a 100-pot limit in the areas opened to the state fishery shoreward of 25 fathoms from Raft River to Copalis River through April 30, 2007. Fishers must pre-register with the Department prior to deploying gear in this area. Specific details regarding SMA openings and pot limits will be made available prior to opening.

A Quinault **secondary SMA (SSMA)** will be established to include the area shoreward of a line approximating the 25-fathom depth curve between the mouth of the Copalis River and Point Grenville according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: 47°18.35N. - 124°16.00
- Northwest Corner: 47°18.35N. – 124°28.40
- Southwest Corner: 47°08.00N. – 124°23.50
- Southeast Corner: 47°08.00N. – 124°11.20

This area will be closed to the state fishery from the time the primary SMA closure ends until such time that QIN and the Department of Fish and Wildlife determine that QIN will harvest 50% of the annual catch projection within the 60A-1 catch reporting area.

A second Quinault SSMA will be established to include the area shoreward of a line approximating the 30-fathom depth curve from Point Grenville to Split Rock according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: 47°24.50N. - 124°20.00
- Northwest Corner: 47°24.50N. - 124°33.70
- Southwest Corner: 47°18.35N. - 124°31.20
- Southeast Corner: 47°18.35N. - 124°16.00

This area will be closed to the state fishery from the time the PSMA closure ends until such time that QIN and state policy representatives determine that QIN will harvest 50% of the annual catch projection within the 59A-2 catch reporting area.

**Quileute:**

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning 12:01 AM, January 16, 2007. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM, May 1, 2007.

The Quileute SMA is described as the area from Cape Johnson to Destruction Island shoreward of a line approximating 30 fathoms according to the following points:

- Northeast Corner; Cape Johnson 47°58.00 - 124°40.40
- Northwest Corner; 47°58.00 N. - 124°49.00W.
- Southwest Corner; 47°40.50 N. - 124°40.00'W.
- Southeast Corner; Destruction Island 47°40.50 - 124° 24.43

There will be a 100-pot limit in the SMA from May 1, 2007, through May 31, 2007. Fishers must pre-register with the Department prior to deploying gear in this area.

**Makah SMA:**

The Makah SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 12:01 AM, February 13, 2007. The SMA will open to state fishers at 8:00 AM, April 14, 2007.

The Makah SMA is described as the coastal waters between 48°02.15N. to 48°20.00N. east of a line connecting those points approximating the 25-fathom line according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner; Tatoosh Island
- Northwest Corner; 48°20.00 N. - 124°50.45 W.

- Southwest Corner; 48°02.15 N. – 124°50.45 W.
- Southeast Corner, 48°02.15 N. – 124°41.00 W.

**Other Requirements:**

- a. There will be a 64-hour pre-soak period starting at 8:00 AM, January 5, 2007, between Klipsan Beach and Destruction Island prior to the opening at 12:01 AM, January 8, 2007.
  - b. Vessels not designated on a coastal Dungeness crab fishery license are permitted to transport or deploy up to 250 pots during the pre-soak period. The primary operator of the vessel associated with the pots being transported must be aboard the vessel while they are being deployed.
  - c. Vessel hold inspections will be conducted at noon on January 7, 2007, for all vessels that have not fished in the area from Klipsan Beach to Point Arena, CA prior to January 5, 2007.
  - d. All license holders will be required to carry, complete, and submit logbooks to the Department. At the time of the hold inspection, vessel operators will be provided a logbook and instructions. This information will greatly assist us in managing our fishery in the future.
  - e. Notification to Department Enforcement is required when transiting crab through closed areas. Notification is to be made 24-hours prior to entering the area north of 47°00.00 N. Latitude by calling 360-249-4628, extension 253, and reporting the vessel name, operator name, estimated amount of crab to be delivered in pounds, and the estimated date, time, and location of delivery. The following situations will require notification.
    - a. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Klipsan beach (46°28.00) or Willapa Bay prior to the area north of Klipsan beach opening.
    - b. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Destruction Island (47°40.50) prior to the area north of Destruction Island opening.
  - f. A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets through January 31, 2007.
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- g. The Department would like your help, please call the coastal crab hotline (360-249-4628, extension 260) if you witness or have information regarding enforcement violations including fishing in closed areas, starting early, pots without buoy tags, etc.

This information is also available on the Department web page:  
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crabreg/comcrab/coast/>

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this letter or other regulations pertaining to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, please contact Heather Reed at (360) 249-1202. Thank you for your patience and your help as we have worked through this challenging preseason management process.

Sincerely,



Philip Anderson, Assistant Director  
Intergovernmental Resource Management

PA:dak

cc: Jeff Koenings  
Larry Peck  
Lew Atkins  
Ron Warren  
Heather Reed  
Tom Davis